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Talent show is city's latest video contest

The second round of the Holyoke at Home video contests will be a talent show, the mayor's office announced this week.

All residents of Holyoke are encouraged to get creative while staying home and submit a video of

TALENT, 12



Masks required for all shoppers, employees now

Holyoke's public health director, Sean Gonsalves, issued orders last week requiring all customers and employees to wear face coverings in business establishments were social distancing cannot be maintained.

The order is modeled on a similar policy in Northampton, and builds on the existing "strong recommendations" from

MASKS, 5

We want to hear your stories of staying at home

The Holyoke Sun wants to know how you're coping with the coronavirus closures and how they've changed all of our lives — no school, no work, social distancing and staying at home.

We can't meet our neighbors in the schoolyards, playing fields or workplaces of Holyoke, but we can all share a few snap-

SHARE, 7

'Stay at home' can be a problem for those who don't have a home

By Peter Spotts pspotts@turley.com

ovid-19 has made life difficult for many, but for those who have no home or shelter to bunker down in and public buildings closing doors, it's become even more stressful to be homeless.

Holyoke doesn't have any dedicated homeless shelters. That poses a public health concern at a time when officials say hand-washing is the first line of defense against spreading Covid-19.

"The problems homeless people face has just been amplified because of the lack of shelter," said Liz Whynott, director of harm reduction programs at Tapestry. "In Holyoke, the problem has been not only having a safe place to sleep, but it's been a lack of access to basic hygiene. Public bathrooms have been a [challenge], especially with Covid-19, since all the public places have shut down. There's no public hand washing stations, there's no place to shower."

Tapestry is an organization, dating back to 1973, that's committed to working on communities' urgent public



Jason Hancock and John Stolarz stand ready on Wednesday to distribute a meal of spaghetti, bread and orange juice or milk at Kate's Kitchen.

Photos by Peter Spotts

health needs, operating in cities across Western Massachusetts, including Holyoke. To alleviate some of the hygiene issues, the city opened two portable toilets and handwashing station locations, one near the Holyoke Public Library and the other by Morgan School.

In the past, homeless people in Holyoke seeking a shelter would have to travel to Springfield or Northampton. However, Whynott said that those cities are seeing their resources stretched as their own

homeless population turns to shelters, while staff try to maintain social distancing in limited space.

"The strain it put on the resources in Springfield, it's

See HOME, page 4

HHS hopes to graduate in person

Aug., Nov. dates mulled for 2020 senior events

By Michael Ballway mballway@turley.com

Just a week after the announcement that school buildings won't reopen before summer, Holyoke High School has a Plan B for prom, graduation and other senior class traditions.

And, if the virus is still keeping them home in August, a Plan C, too.

"Right now, we're focused entirely on [a] 'trying to maintain the in-person, maintain the tradition,' graduation approach," said high school Principal Stephen Mahoney at the April 27

meeting of the Holyoke School Committee, "... continue to honor the traditions that surround Senior Week for Holyoke High School gradu-

Plan B envisions a week of senior activities culminating in an outdoor graduation ceremony at the HHS football field either Aug. 2 or Aug. 16. Both dates are Sundays.

"Initially, we went to Aug. 16" as the preferred date, Mahoney said. "It's before the start of college years, and it gives us a maximum bump between now and graduation, for the easing of social distancing."

Lately, however, Aug. 2 has been gaining support. Mahoney said students who are entering the military had indicated they might not still be in town in mid-August. School Committee member Devin Sheehan noted that although some students may have told the principal they are free Aug. 16, colleges are rescheduling their summer events, and many of them may be holding orientation ses-

See GRADUATE, page 4

Social learning amid social distancing

Teachers offer tips to help youngest pupils develop their skills

> By Shelby Macri smacri@turley.com

While kindergartens and preschools are closed, it's not the ABCs and 1-2-3s that teachers worry about their young pupils missing. In an age of social distancing, it's social skill development that may suffer.

Parents of youngsters can do a lot to teach their children the basic skills they'll need to function in next year's kindergarten or first grade classroom, Holyoke teachers said, even in the midst of a stay-at-home order.

Cara Bailly, Kathryn Lorenzi and Erica Therrien form the kindergarten teaching team at Kelly School. They advised parents to set a household routine and stick to it—

See LEARNING, page 8



School officials, led by School Committee member Rebecca Birks, have been distributing signs around the city recognizing the Class of 2020 — though the coronavirus may delay graduation until August, or November.

Submitted photo

ounting

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Last week's turtle totals

Did you find Turley the Turtle in last week's edition of The Holyoke Sun? Turley appeared 11 times. Ed Trudeau found all 11.

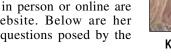
Be sure to look closely on every page of this week's paper! We'd like to recognize our most eagle-eyed readers — if you think you've found them all, email the number you counted, along with your name and town of residence, by noon Tuesday to thesun@turley.com.



In The News

Activist, former teacher to run for rep.

Kirstin Beatty of Holyoke is seeking online or in-person signatures by May 4 to run for the Democratic nomination for the Holyoke state representative seat being vacated by Rep. Aaron Vega. She has a website, Beatty.fyi, with more information on her campaign and an online forum for residents to share concerns, questions and issues. Instructions to sign in person or online are available at her website. Below are her responses to a few questions posed by the Holyoke Sun.



Why are you running?

One, I think I am able to design a bill to get what I want done and generate support. Two, I want a future where life is better for everyone. Three, I need to get some issues on the table to be addressed. Four, I have been lobbying and getting to Boston is tough and expensive — I'd rather be full-time.

What policies would you pursue, if elected?

Financial security is a basic need right now. Covid-19 means that the financial security of many citizens needs to be supported with dollar bills or services as economically and smartly as possible. The city needs help, as well. With respect to the Yale issue, there needs to be a limit on the percentage of nonprofit property in any one municipality, or financial compensation.

Aside from this, I'm about creating a better and sustainable life for everyone, instead of for favorites. I care about local control of education as well as government accountability, the environment, privacy rights, safe infrastructure, medical security, local economy, ranked choice, stopping Citizens United, and many other issues.

What life experiences inform your decisions?



Kirstin Beatty

As a former teacher, I've seen bureaucracy and shenanigans designed just to look good rather than help students. I've learned to argue for change. Being a single parent, I also now see better what needs to be changed to increase opportunities for success, and I want to make those changes.

What makes you unique as a candidate?

I am very good at identifying problems in legislation. In State House testimony I've identified wording or design that wrecks the

intent of bills, and identified industry front groups. I'm also very good at providing original solutions. As an example, I've put forward legislation to limit state testing and require the use of state testing to directly address student needs in reading and writing, before it is

I have been working via Last Tree Laws on a measure for the Precautionary Principle, which means that when an action or product is likely very dangerous, then the action or product can be banned. This would require business and government to more thoroughly examine the safety of actions or products. This is a strong step forward. We welcome support!

I've also worked on legislation to reduce wireless exposures, which is unique. Few people realize that the National Toxicological Program found tumor and heart risks from wireless exposures, which increased as the intensity of exposure increased. I've been generous with my time and work on this issue, learning about the legislature and lobbying.

The primary election for state representative will be in September 2020. Three other Democratic candidates have also announced that they are running for the open seat, David Bartley, Patrick Beaudry and Patricia Duffy.

Free digital literacy program starts Tues.

Holyoke Community College will run a free online program starting May 5 for people who want to sharpen their digital literacy skills to become more effective remote workers and learners.

'How to Work and Learn Online," offered through HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development, is a four-part workshop series that will be conducted in a live, interactive, streaming forum on May 5, 7, 12 and 14 from 1 to 3

Participants will learn how to navigate computer settings, create and organize files, and safely use the Internet and digital communication tools such as Zoom. Sessions will cover best practices for being an effective online learner, including tips on study habits, expectations of online learning, and how to use Google Drive and other computer applications.

The course was developed and will be taught by Jose Pedraza, assistant coordinator of HCC's Gill Community Technology Center, which promotes technology literacy for HCC's education and workforce training programs.

"Our staff and faculty have been working hard to find creative ways to help students and people from the community during these challenging times," said Michele Cabral, HCC's executive director of professional development and corporate learning. "Knowledge of computers and online literacy have become more important than ever lately. This course is really designed for anyone — students, parents with young children, people forced to work at home because of Covid-19 restrictions, and others who want to develop a greater mastery of digital technology."

Those enrolled will be sent a link to the class, which they can join using any device with an internet connection, such as a desktop computer, laptop, Chromebook or smartphone.

For more information or to register, contact Valentyna Semyrog at 413-552-2123 or vsemyrog@

Attorney leads online elder law classes

Adapting to Covid-19 restrictions, attorney Karen G. Jackson of Jackson Law will teach a series of Holyoke Community College classes through the teleconferencing site Zoom, highlighting the latest developments in elder law and estate planning

An elder law and estate planning attorney, Jackson will present her six-hour course, "Elder Law and Estate Planning: What You Need to Know," using Zoom over the next three Mondays.

"The course will explain the basic building blocks of an estate plan," Jackson

various specialized trust documents that support this join using PCs, laptops or smartphones.



Karen Jackson

planning. I will clarify the probate court process and what it means to 'probate a will.' And, I will explore current Medicare and MassHealth issues that are affecting seniors."

Classes will meet for two hours at a time, 6-8 p.m. Mondays, May 4, 11 and 18. The cost of the course is \$99. Participants can choose to skip one or two classes, but all enrollees will pay the full course fee.

To register, email Valentyna Semyrog at vsemyrog@hcc.edu, leave a message at 413-552-2123 or visit www.hcc.edu/bce.

said. "From that foundation, we will also consider the Participants will be sent a link to join the class and can

Blessed Sacrament announces honor roll

Blessed Sacrament School in Holyoke recently announced its third quarter honor roll for 2019-20.

Grade 8

High Honors: Kaylin Cabrini, Alexander Dumas. Honors: Michaela McGillicuddy, Lillian Nadler, Anna Puttick, Nicholas Sobon, Ava Tellier.

Grade 7

High Honors: Emma Caproni.

Honors: Kylie Blaha, Gracie Chesmore.

Grade 6

High Honors: Morgan Dulude, Christian Piedra. Honors: Colin Lumb, Elizabeth Puttick.

Grade 5

High Honors: Mila Dillard, Jane Kelly. Honors: Dominic Percy, Gianna Percy.

State expected to decide this month on superintendent hiring

By Michael Ballway mballway@turley.com

The state education commissioner is "very close" to hiring Holyoke's next receiver-superintendent, the School Committee learned this week.

Stephen Zrike, who has held the job for the past five years, said on April 27 that he expects his replacement will be named "within the next week or two." That will give him plenty of time to meet with the new school chief and ensure a smooth transition when the new fiscal year begins July 1.

Several School Committee members expressed disappointment in the way the state has handled the search process. With Holyoke schools in state receivership, the authority to hire a new receiver-superintendent rests entirely with the state commissioner of elementary and secondary education. But many Holyoke residents over the past few months have used public forums to request that at least one person with a direct connection to Holyoke be involved in choosing the finalists, or helping conduct the job inter-

School Committee Vice Chairman

Mildred Lefebvre said she had suggested that a member of her board sit on the interview panel, but never even heard back from state officials.

She also said that a superintendent should have been hired by now.

"May's going to fly by. So is June. The transition should have already started," she said.

School Committee member Nyles Courchesne suggested that Zrike, who knows better than anyone what the job entails, should have been asked to interview the finalists.

Zrike announced last December that

he would be stepping down at the end of June. He was hired in 2015 after the Holyoke schools were taken over by the state. Under state receivership, the receiver-superintendent reports to the state education commissioner and can exercise powers that would ordinarily be reserved for the elected School Committee.

In January, consultants hired by the state held several forums in Holyoke, speaking with students, teachers and parents about what qualities they would like to see in the new superintendent. That has been Holyoke residents' only involvement in the hiring process.

School summer programs taking signups

elementary and middle school summer school programs offered by the Holyoke School Department.

Holyoke will offer Summer Learning Academies for students who will be entering grades 1-9 in Holyoke public schools. This program will run July 7 through Aug. 6. There is no cost to enroll; breakfast, lunch and transportation are included.

Summer academy programs include the Early Elementary Summer Academy at White School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, for students entering grades 1-3; Upper Elementary Summer Academy at McMahon School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, grades 4-5; Dual Language Academy at White School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, for students entering dual language classrooms in grades 1-3; Summer Strings at McMahon, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, featuring chorus, folk dance and visual arts for students entering grades 1-8; Generation Teach STEAM Academy, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays at Holyoke STEM Academy, for students entering grades 6-8; and Shake Up Shakespeare Performing Arts Academy with Enchanted Circle at Holyoke STEM Academy, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays,

Registrations are being taken for a performing arts program featuring every aspect from writing to set design to performance, for students entering grades

> Early registrations are suggested, as space is limited. For more information, contact Anthony Gibbs, agibbs@ hps.holyoke.ma.us, or Michelle Macklin, mmacklin@hps.holyoke.ma.us, in the Department of Extended Learning, or visit www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/families/ summerlearning.

Extended School Year registration is also open, for qualifying students. Registration forms and more information can be found at www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/ extended-school-year-services.

Parents unsure if their child qualifies for extended year services, or which program they are recommended for, should check their child's most current IEP or speak with the child's special education teacher or team leader. For more information about registration, contact Rebecca Lamb at rlamb@hps. holyoke.ma.us. For information about program offerings, contact Jill Hughes at jhughes@hps.holyoke.ma.us.

For both programs, if social distancing guidelines are still in place when the summer begins, programs will be offered using remote learning technologies.

Protective items shouldn't be recycled

SPRINGFIELD — Some coronavirus pandemic-related items can cause problems in the recycling stream, the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility announced recently.

The MRF, which processes items collected via curbside recycling in Holyoke and several neighboring cities, released a statement in late April that personal protective equipment, such as plastic gloves and face masks, are not recyclable and must be placed in the trash.

Additionally, sanitizing wipes are not recyclable and must go in the trash. Even the products advertised as "flushable" should never be disposed in the toilet. These wipes are clogging the systems at wastewater treatment plants and personal septic systems.

During the current state of emergency, some residents are using their "stay-at-home" time for spring cleaning of garages, basements, closets and home offices. The Springfield MRF's "What Do I Do With ... ?" guide, available at www.springfieldmrf.org, provides information on how to properly dispose, reuse or recycle hundreds of items.

• CDs, DVDs, VHS, and other electronic media are not acceptable in household recycling. If selling or donating used media is not an option, www. greendisk.com offers a fee-based, mail-in recycling option.

 Clean and dry textiles and clothing can be placed in drop-off boxes for recyclers such as the Salvation Army (easternusa.salvationarmy.org). Acceptable items include: all clothing and accessories, including ripped, stained, missing buttons, mismatched socks, shoes and gloves; and linens such as curtains, bedding, towels, and stuffed animals in any condition except moldy or wet. Do not donate used face masks. Thrift stores are currently closed, but some drop boxes are still being serviced. Do not leave materials at overflowing boxes. If residents can wait to drop off items until the "stay-at-home" advisory is over, this would greatly assist organizations in managing materials with fewer staff

· Glossy photographs are not acceptable in recycling because of the photographic chemical coatings in the paper. Slides and negatives are also not recyclable.

When cleaning, the MRF suggests that residents separate items intended for reuse or donation into different categories, bag or box them, label them clearly, and store them until the stay-at-home advisory is over.

For more information, including a full list of what items are acceptable in recycling carts, visit www.springfieldm-

Registration open for Holyoke Community College summer, fall classes

Registration is now open for both summer and fall 2020 classes at Holyoke Community College, offering an affordable option for college students who may be stuck at home now and unsure of their academic plans for September.

Summer courses at HCC begin June 1 and are offered in two four-week sessions and one seven-week session, fully

Summer Session I classes run from June 1 to June 25 or July 1; Summer Session II classes from July 6 to July 30 or Aug. 5. Full-term summer session classes begin June 1 and end July 15-17.

"This summer, HCC is offering as dynamic a schedule of courses as ever," said Rachel Rubinstein, the college's vice president of academic and student affairs. "The only difference is that, because of health and safety concerns related to Covid-19, all of our summer classes will be offered online this year, with very few exceptions."

Those exceptions are limited to hands-on culinary arts courses in food preparation and service planned for Summer Session II. They are still scheduled to meet at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute on Race Street in Holyoke, but those courses may need to be adjusted, depending on lingering concerns over the coronavirus.

HCC's summer 2020 program includes nearly 100 credit classes in accounting, American Sign Language, anthropology, art, biology, business,



Spring weather has arrived at HCC, which means it's time to register for summer classes.

chemistry, communications, criminal justice, culinary arts, earth science, economics, education, engineering, English, environmental science, forensic science, general studies, gerontology, health, health information management, history, human services, humanities, law, management, marketing, math, music, nursing, nutrition, philosophy, political science, psychology, SEM (science, engineering and math), social science, sociology, Spanish, and sustainability studies.

For summer, HCC is offering one-credit courses in subjects such as professional etiquette, business ethics, and money management, three-credit general education classes in English composition and college math, as well as very popular courses in accounting and psychology, four-credit lab science courses in biology, chemistry, sustainability studies and much much more, Rubinstein said.

Registration is also open for the fall 2020 semester. At this point, HCC is planning to offer fall courses on campus if current restrictions are lifted and conditions allow, while also making contingency plans to offer instruction remotely,

"While we hope to resume face-toface instruction in the fall, we have to have flexible teaching plans in place," Rubinstein said. "We don't want students to fall behind in their academic plans. If they have to stay home, they can still earn credits toward a certificate or degree here online. That applies to HCC students, as well as students attending other colleges who don't want to interrupt their studies and may be looking for other options closer to their home communi-

Chromebooks and wi-fi hotspots are available for loan from the HCC Library for students who need them.

For more information, visit hcc.edu/ summer or hcc.edu/admission or call 413-552-2321.

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Grading system simplified for final marking period



By Michael Ballway mballway@turley.com

Holyoke schools are retooling their remote learning plans for the final six weeks of school — and the grades do count.

Receiver-Superintendent Stephen Zrike told the School Committee this week that starting Monday, May 4, class meetings and assignments over the Internet will determine a fourth quarter grade. Grades will be computed on a 100-point scale, then averaged with the third quarter grade - earned while schools were still in session for in-person classes — to produce the second semester grade. Students scoring an average of 60 or higher will earn a "pass" on their transcript. Those with an average under 60 will earn an "incomplete." Students who are graded as incomplete will have an opportunity to make up their missing work during the summer or during the first quarter of 2020-21, and convert their grade to a "pass."

Seniors who had a third quarter average of 70 or higher will not have to attend fourth quarter classes, but will instead be graded on a "course reflection" project. Students in Advanced Placement classes will sit for their AP exams in the second week of May, and will not meet as classes after that point. Zrike said AP classes have continued to do "work for which they are accountable" over the past month and a half as they prepared for the AP test, while other classes had switched to enrichment and review work.

The fourth quarter marking period for grades 9-11 will run May 4 to June 19, which will be the last day of remote classes. For seniors, the fourth quarter will end May 29.

Teachers are being encouraged to be creative with this shortened fourth quarter curriculum. Zrike said teachers of U.S. History 2, for example, are basing their six-week lesson plans on the lyrics to the Billy Joel song "We Didn't Start

the Fire," which consists of references to historical and cultural touchstones of the mid-20th century. Students will examine one concept named in each of the 19 verses and how it fits into American history.

Second semester grades will not be used in computing grade-point averages or class ranks for any of the classes in the high school.

There will not be final exams this year. MCAS exams will also not be held, at any grade level. Since the 10th grade MCAS is required for graduation, the state will have to determine when that test will be offered to this year's sophomores, likely either in the fall or at the same time as the 2021 MCAS. For current seniors who have not yet passed 10th grade MCAS, Zrike said they may have to retake the test in the summer, or the state may opt to waive the graduation requirement for the class of 2020.

Missed MCAS tests for grades 3 through 9 will not be made up, Zrike said.

GRADUATE, from page 1

sions, or starting practices for athletic teams, on that date.

"What people think is their availability now may not be their availability in a month and a half," Sheehan said.

Half a week before graduation, the North Campus would host the seniors versus staff basketball game on a Wednesday. The next day, there would be a senior banquet on the Dean Campus, and Class Day and honors ceremony for the Dean Campus. On Friday, the North Campus would hold its Class Day and honors ceremony. Wyckoff Country Club has indicated it can host the prom on Monday,

Aug. 3, or Friday, Aug. 14, depending on when graduation is.

If large gatherings are still banned in August, the school would hold class days as Internet livestreams, hold the senior banquet and prom on the day after Thanksgiving, and have a graduation ceremony Saturday, Nov. 28, at the high school football field.

Mahoney said that's likely the latest date that he would hold an in-person graduation ceremony. If public health considerations wouldn't allow graduation events on Thanksgiving weekend, he'll have to reconsider his devotion to the traditional ceremony.

"There are multiple other options that we can do that are very different,

from private ceremonies where we just bring people in every 10 minutes, to traveling to people's homes for private ceremonies, to virtual ceremonies, to drivein movie theater ceremonies," Mahoney said

School Committee member Rebecca Birks said even Thanksgiving is too late.

"I'm hoping to God we get this done in August," she said. "Going into November, these kids have already started the next chapter of their lives."

Sheehan said no matter what date is chosen, organizers are going to have to have a backup plan in case of inclement weather. The graduates and all their family members from both campuses won't all fit in the North Campus gymnasium, he

said, and the problem will only be worse if social distancing restrictions continue to mandate that people stand farther apart than usual.

Mahoney said his leadership team has already begun working on solutions to that problem.

School Committee members suggested that if ceremonies and banquets are being delayed until August or November, the school should find a way to recognize seniors during the traditional early June graduation period, perhaps by sharing their honors or scholarship awards via social media or public access television.

The combined graduation ceremony for Holyoke High School's two campuses was originally scheduled for June 7.

HOME, from page 1

been difficult for the administrative staff to handle anymore," Whynott said. "I worry about sending Holyoke folks to a city that's more dense, has a high population already of people in need of shelter."

Whynott said the homeless in Holyoke have taken refuge where they can find it — abandoned buildings, the woods, and riverfronts are among the popular areas. As the city continues to renovate and repurpose buildings into apartments and other uses, homeless people lose potential spots to find shelter.

"I think now is the time for Holyoke to look into and figure out how to open up a shelter for people that are experiencing homelessness," Whynott said. "Even if we see a decrease of Covid in the warmer months, it's looking more and more like this isn't going to go away for a while. What's going to happen, come winter? Where are people going to go?"

Finding food

In addition to shelter and hygiene, food needs to be found, too. Local pantries and meal sites, like Kate's Kitchen, are the primary ways for the homeless to find food without a dedicated shelter. Kate's Kitchen is part of the Loreto House, overseen by the Providence Ministries for the Needy, at 51 Hamilton St., Holyoke. Meals are served from noon to 2 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

"We feed the homeless here through Kate's Kitchen, but we don't house overnight," said Executive Director Jennie Adamczyk. "Kate's Kitchen runs every day of the week, offering a hot to-go meal during Covid-19. Our dining room is usually open, but because of coronavirus, we're serving out of to-go containers."

The service is in high demand. Adamcyzk said that the kitchen typically serves 120 people a day, which has increased to more than 200 during the pandemic. The food pantry run at the Loreto House has seen a similar increase in usership. They've partnered with the Food Bank of Western Mass. and Stop & Shop supermarket, both of which have made generous donations to keep food supplies stockpiled.

"The combination of people being out of work, not having access to get to grocery stores and whatnot, they're utilizing the food pantry more than what we've seen," Adamczyk explained. "We're always concerned that we're not going to be able to keep up with the supply because it's a heavy burden for us to make sure that we're able to keep serving the people in the community."



John Stolarz, left, hands out a free lunch at Kate's Kitchen on Hamilton Street.

Kate's Kitchen closes on weekends to give staff a little less exposure to the general public. It's streamlined its food distribution process to minimize the risk for its volunteers and those coming for food to contract Covid-19.

"We have a good system where we do one at a time. We make sure people are taking their meals and moving on, and no congregating in the parking lot," Adamcyzk said. "We're definitely working very hard to make sure the people that we serve are not only getting a good meal, but are also staying safe."

This period of time is also putting an increasing mental strain on homeless people. In addition to the concerns of finding shelter, staying healthy, having food to

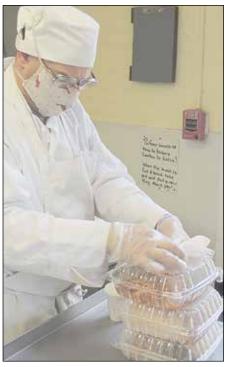
eat, there's also an ever-increasing risk of isolation and the psychological effects it brings.

"It's causing a lot of feelings of isolation, feelings of loneliness," said Whynott. "The stress of Covid-19-related to isolation is felt by homeless folks and others just as much as everyone else, even more, because they don't have a home to go to. Feeling a lack of human compassion; the negative effect on psyches, is worrying."

For more information on Tapestry and their services, visit www.tapestry-health.org/holyoke. For more information on the Loreto House and Kate's Kitchen, visit www.provministries.org/locations/loreto-house.



Jason Hancock keeps the cart stocked for quick distribution.



John Stolarz prepares a stack of three lunches at Kate's Kitchen.

Photos by Peter Spotts

STCC lends ventilators to Holyoke, Springfield hospitals

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield Technical Community College's Respiratory Care program is lending its five ventilators to area hospitals preparing for a surge in patients due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Christopher Scott, dean of the School of Health and Patient Simulation, said STCC is prepared to donate or lend any equipment hospitals need during the coronavirus emergency. The school recently donated all of its personal protective equipment to area hospitals, medical centers and first responders.

STCC is lending its ventilators to Baystate Medical Center and Mercy Medical Center, both in Springfield, and to Holyoke Medical Center.

'We knew that hospitals are preparing for an influx of patients and will need ventilators," Scott said. "We work closely with Baystate, Mercy and Holyoke on a regular basis. We are grateful for all their support over the years, so we are happy to let them use whatever equipment we have to help their patients."

Scott said STCC respiratory care students have trained on the ventilators, which are the same type the hospitals

"Our semester is winding down, and we feel these vents can be put to better use on the front lines in hospitals," Scott said.

Ventilators are used by some patients infected with Covid-19 who have breathing problems. The breathing devices have been in demand since the start of the pandemic.

The coronavirus crisis has put a spotlight on the profession of respiratory care. In addition to helping patients with Covid-19, respiratory therapists treat people suffering from a range of chronic respiratory diseases, including asthma, emphysema, pneumonia, cystic fibrosis, sleep apnea and chronic bronchitis.

STCC offers a two-year associate degree program that trains students in the treatment, management, diagnosis and care of patients with diseases related to the heart and lungs. Training includes the use of therapeutic gases, ventilator support, breathing exercises, aerosol administration, medications, humidification and maintenance of airways.

Graduates of the program can transfer to a four-year college or university to continue their education or begin working at a hospital or other health care facility.

For more information, visit stcc.edu/ apply, or email Esther Perrelli Brookes, department chair, at eperrelli@stcc.edu.



Esther Perrelli Brookes, left, chair of Springfield Technical Community College's respiratory care department, stands with one of the ventilators that has been lent to local hospitals. Also pictured are respiratory care faculty Scott M. Frink, center, and Nfamara "Fams" Taal.

Donations aid hospitals, youth organizations

A fourth round of grants, totaling \$226,000, from the Covid-19 Response Fund for the Pioneer Valley has been announced, with healthcare and medical centers in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties receiving the largest portion of the new round as they battle the impact of the disease on the region with surging admissions to hospitals.

Grants were also directed to youth-serving organizations and to programs providing food access to those impacted by the crisis. To date, the Response Fund has granted more than \$1.3 million to local organiza-

Local recipients of grant funds include Holyoke Medical Center and the Community Adolescent Resource and Education Center in Holyoke, as well as Baystate Noble Hospital, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Westfield, and Our Community Table/ Westfield Soup Kitchen in Westfield.

Since launching the Covid-19 Response Fund for the Pioneer Valley, the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts has raised \$3.6 million from 350 individuals, families, foundations and companies in the region and outside of the region. Donations may be made at www.communityfoundation.org/

According to Katie Allan Zobel, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, "As the impact on our region unfolds, more urgent needs are emerging and the health care systems in the three counties have been hit particularly hard. These grants to the healthcare institutions in the three-county area recognize the critical importance of the healthcare infrastructure in Western Massachusetts. This latest round also targets programs that are working with isolated youth of low-income families who are particularly vulnerable during this crisis. Grants also help to provide more food and nutrition access to those in need."

Zobel said that with the announcement that public schools will be closed for the remainder of the academic year, the Community Foundation will be conducting additional outreach to determine needs for young people in the region.

'We are striving to be strategic in our grant making, and needs related to youth, who are increasingly vulnerable, are emerging as a priority," Zobel

The Response Fund was established to provide emergency grants to community nonprofit organizations serving the immediate needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by the pandemic in Western Massachusetts.

Notaries can act online during pandemic

Gov. Charlie Baker on April 27 signed legislation that authorizes notaries public to perform notary actions using videoconferencing during the Covid-19 public health

The legislation applies requirements for authorized notaries to use electronic video conferencing for documents requiring notarization, including those related to a mortgage or other conveyance of title to real estate, will, nomination of guardian or conservator, caregiver authorization affidavit, trust, durable power of attorney or health care proxy.

The legislation, which will remain in place until three business days after the March 10 state of emergency declaration is lifted, requires that the notary public and each principal be physically located within Massachusetts and communicating by live video. It mandates that notaries to record and retain a copy of the videoconference and related documentation for a period of 10 years.

MASKS, from page 1

Mayor Alex Morse and the Holyoke Board of Health encouraging face cov-

"While I'm grateful that many Holvoke residents have been abiding by the city's mask-wearing guidance, it's true that the efficacy of such actions are maximized by more people following the rules. That is why our guidance is now a public order," Morse said in an April 23 statement.

On April 3, the federal Centers for Disease Control issued an advisory concerning the wearing of face coverings when people are unable to maintain safe social distancing, defined as 6 feet or greater. On April 10, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued a similar advisory regarding the wearing of face coverings in public.

The mayor and Board of Health urge Holyoke residents to stay home, as the most effective way to protect oneself and others against Covid-19.

Those who must go out, for example to pick up food or medication, should wear a mask, or even a bandana across the nose and mouth, as a small measure of protection meant to complement other personal protection strategies, such as frequent hand-cleaning with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

Medical-grade masks such as N95 respirators and surgical masks are not necessary for use in public spaces, and should be reserved for nurses and other medical staff who have frequent direct content with Covid-positive patients. Carriers of the virus can spread the disease up to two days prior to becoming ill with Covid-19. Wearing a face covering helps protect others.

Users of face coverings should take care to ensure that they are wearing, using, washing and disposing of it properly. Before putting on a face covering, the user should clean hands with soap and running water, or an alcohol-based hand rub. It should cover the mouse and nose with no gaps between the mask and the face. Users should avoid touching the face cover while using it; if they do touch it, they should clean their hands thoroughly after. Face covers should be replaced as soon as they become damp. Single-use masks should not be reused.

When removing the mask, handle it from behind, touching only the earloops if possible, discard immediately in a closed bin or laundry basket, and clean

Wearing a mask when residents must go out on essential business may help reduce transmission to the employees of these businesses who are at great risk of exposure due to the nature of

These public-facing, front-line employees help keep us alive by providing us with the supplies that we need, so we owe it to them to do everything that we can to keep them safe while they work, and right now that is wearing a mask," city officials said in their April

The city of Holyoke actively encourages residents to reach out to friends, family, and neighbors for masks. News about mask supplies and availability will be posted on the city's website and social media. For those interested in making their own masks, a local group of crafters provides information at facebook.com/groups/DIYmasksofWmass.

Order enforcement

The face covering order took effect at 12:01 a.m. Sunday, April 26, and applies to business locations in the city

It is the responsibility of business owners to provide their employees with masks and inform both employees and customers of the rules. Customers who do not have a mask will be asked to pull their jacket or shirt over their nose and

Customers can use any cloth that securely covers the nose and mouth, including scarves, bandanas and turtlenecks, as well as homemade cloth

Enforcement will be by the Holyoke Board of Health and its agents. Businesses found in violation of the order will first be given a warning, then issued fines of \$300 per day for subsequent offenses. Continued violations could result in a business being closed

In their April 23 statement, city officials said individuals should not take it upon themselves to enforce the order or approach people who are in violation of the order. Individuals should focus solely on their own personal compliance with the order.

Additionally, the order does not apply to children under 2 years old, or any child who would compromise the mask's integrity by frequent manipulation or removal, or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance, or who cannot wear a mask for health or safety reasons.

Even if masks are available, the Board of Health continues to require that Holyoke residents maintain social distancing whenever possible.

For more information about the city's response to the coronavirus, visit www.holyoke.org/departments/coronavi**Editorial**

Safety first in electronic age

ay is always Electrical Safety Month, but with everyone spending a more time at home than usual thanks to Covid-19, it's especially important this year for homeowners to be aware of safety guidelines for electronic devices, plugs and outlets.

The state Department of Fire Services reported that the second leading cause of home fire deaths is electrical fires. From 2014 to 2019, 2,794 fires cause by electrical problems were reported by Massachusetts fire departments. This led to 39 civilian deaths, 92 civilian injuries, 335 fire service personnel injuries, and estimated damages of \$198.3 million.

"Electrical fires are the second leading cause of home fire deaths in Massachusetts," said state Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey. "The best ways to prevent electrical fires are to have a licensed electrician do all work, and have your electrical system reviewed every 10 years so you or your tenants won't be tempted to overload outlets. We need to keep our electrical systems up to date with our ever-increasing electrical needs in this technological age."

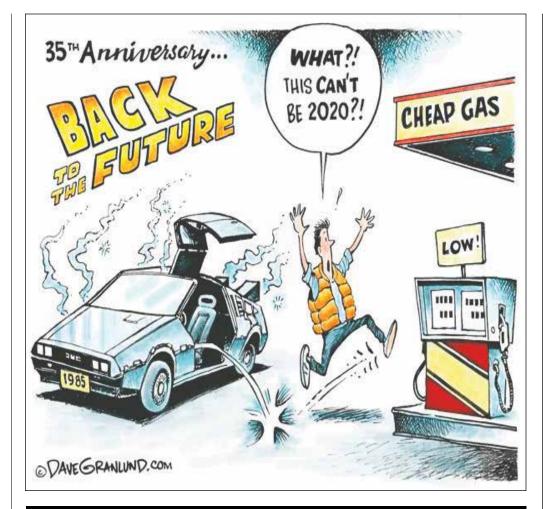
People are getting a lot of use out of their smartphones, iPads, tablets, laptops and other devices while they depend on home entertainment to fill the gap caused by "social distancing." These crucial mobile Internet access platforms that allow us to stay plugged in wherever we are in the house, yard, or on the go can also be potential fire hazards if charged incorrectly. Many fires at home are caused by cell phones or laptops being left charging on a bed or under a pillow. Though the user may be asleep, the device's processors are still running while it charges, and that generates heat. Blocking or covering the device can prevent air from cooling the batteries, and lead to a fire. Failures of the lithium ion batteries typically used in these devices are more likely to occur during recharging. Charge these devices on a hard surface, with room for heat to dissi-

With more devices in use, and more devices charging, be mindful of how many plugs are connected to that electrical wall socket. Plugging too many things into a single outlet or circuit can cause an overload, starting a fire.

Heavy furniture can easily pinch an electrical cord, and over time, that can lead to a fire. Do not run cords underneath rugs; it is both a tripping and a fire hazard. Unplug appliances by grasping the plug; do not pull by the cord.

Keep an eye out for the warning signs of an electrical issue. Any arcs, sparks, or short-circuits should prompt a call to the Fire Department. Other indicators are sizzling or buzzing sounds or a burning odor. Symptoms

See SAFETY page 7



Poetry Corner

Where are we?

By Thomas J. Kennedy

It's just so different — Three legged stool, One keeps hoping we follow objective rules. People lose control and privacy, Health and Life, or it takes and effects business life.

Your behavior or others will determine your privacy.

Make the individual recognize you will be defined.

I hope by character and not state design.

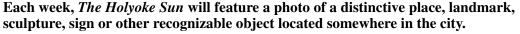
One feels deeply bad/sad for teenagers

Faced too much too soon.

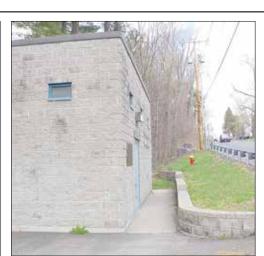
Being too young ... Fifties cry out. Loss of Happy Days and Graduation, God, please take away these trouble times and make everyone sing in beautiful rhyme. God we now learned a lesson, Please give us more of your blessing.

I would like to give back fifties/sixties when music was sweet and morals strong, and mostly everyone in respect and trust got along. Peace, Love and Joy to everyone and soon we'll go out and have good fun!





Think you know what or where it is? Readers are encouraged to submit their guesses to "Hidden in Holyoke" via email to TheSun@Turley.com. In order to qualify for the weekly contest, entries must be received by Wednesday at noon for inclusion into Friday's edition. Please include your full name with your guess in an email to TheSun@turley.com. If more than one correct answer is received, the names of all those who submitted guesses will be listed. For more information, contact *The Holyoke Sun* at 413-283-8398.



Last week's
 "Hidden in Holyoke"
was the West Heights water pumping
station on Homestead Avenue.
It was correctly guessed by
Don Diller, Alice and Dexter Gess,
Edward Trudeau, Fred and
Paul Wanat, and Jay Whelihan.

the

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A Quote

OF NOTE

"The stress of Covid-19
... is felt by
homeless folks
and others just as much
as everyone else,
even more,
because they don't
have a home to go to."

Liz Whynott



Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Starting annual flowers indoors

This past Saturday my daughters and I completed our annual seed starting ritual. First, we gathered all of the brightly-colored packets of flower seeds I had accumulated, and with them all sprawled out in front us, started writing out labels on old Popsicle sticks. Both the girls have their own little flower plot in the garden; it's always fun to see what varieties make the "cut" so to speak.

Then I found a good selection of clean, reused containers: six-packs from plants I purchased last year, former yogurt or take-out ice cream cups and other such containers, and filled them with moist potting soil. We usually sow one or two seeds per cell or cup, depending on the gusto of the plant sown. This year, my favorite seed starting mix is the Coast of Maine brand. I purchased it at Hardwick Farmer's Co-op, in Gilbertville, no- contact style by calling and paying ahead.

Once the seeds are sown we put all of the containers in a tray covered loosely with a clear plastic bag and placed it in a warm spot. Once they germinate I'll make sure to keep them in a sunny window, or better yet put them outside in a sheltered by sunny spot if the weather cooperates. They won't be transplanted into the garden until the chance of frost has passed, usually by Memorial Day, and after they have been acclimatized to the outdoors by a period of hardening

Bachelor's button or cornflower: Could the first name come from the fact



that this flower fits perfectly into a button hole? Or maybe it's popularity as a boutonniere flower? No matter, kids will love them because of their two-inch delicate blooms in pretty shades of blue, pink, lavender, maroon and white. Plants can grow anywhere from one to three feet tall and are rather lanky in appearance. For that reason they can be

spaced at just six inches apart. They often peter out in the heat, so resow in late June for blooms well into the fall.

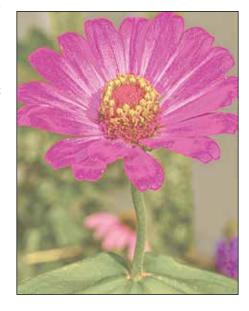
Calendula or pot marigold: Long prized for its medicinal qualities, we all love calendula because of its bright yellow or orange flowers. Depending on variety, the petals on these beauties can be single, semi-double or fully double, and can have contrasting dark eyes. Most top off at less than two feet tall. They are subtly fragrant. Plant 10 inches apart. Cut spent blooms to keep the plant producing and with any luck you could see flowers past the first fall frost. Do let a few flowers fade on the plant, and when they are completely dry and the color of straw, let the kids examine and pull apart the tightly-packed seed cluster. Put some in a jar, label, and save like my mom did for sowing next year.

Marigolds: We either "love 'em or hate 'em," probably because of their smell. Kids always seem to steer to the former. First off, the easy to handle seeds are really cool because they're black and white and have tails! They come up easily and bloom for most of the summer even in drought. Of the three species most commonly sold, stick with either the French or the African for bouquet making. French types are best for the edge of the border, growing only about a foot tall. African marigolds usually grow anywhere from two to three feet tall depending on variety. Plant six inches apart for the shorter types and at least a foot apart for the taller varieties.

Zinnias: My absolute favorite summer flower in the world! Some say gaudy, I say cheerful. The dahlia-flowered variety 'Benary's Giant' has flowers in every color but blue. They regularly top four inches across. Plant these in the back of the border at least one foot apart. A bouquet of these would certainly deserve a pretty vase and prominence on the window sill.

Why not forgo buying transplants this year and start some flowers from seed? It is a lot of fun to see the process full circle, from seed to flowers and then to seed again. The varieties I have outlined below are great for beginners or children, but even old pros will enjoy these and many other types come mid-summer.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject





Counseling hotline reaches milestone

On April 24, Mass2-1-1 and its Call2Talk emotional support and suicide prevention hotline reached over 50,000 calls regarding Covid-19. Mass2-1-1 is a program created and staffed by the United Ways of Massachusetts, and designated by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency as the official hotline for Covid-19.

'All of us at United Way and Mass2-1-1 are proud of our Mass2-1-1 and Call2Talk call takers for doing such an outstanding job over these last 50,000 Covid-19-related calls from the citizens of the commonwealth. As time goes on, calls are becoming much more stressful and emotional, so stay strong, team!" said Paul Mina, executive director of

Any resident of Massachusetts with questions about Covid-19 or needs such as unemployment or food aid caused by the pandemic can call 2-1-1 at any time, from any phone in Massachusetts, in over 150 languages.

For more information about the United Way of Pioneer Valley, visit uwpv.org.

SAFETY, from page 6

of an actual failure - blown fuses, flickering lights, hot outlets, electrical shocks - should prompt a call to a professional electrician as soon as possible.

Avoid using extension cords Though they can be a convenient temporary aid, these cords are not designed to be a longterm substitute for a proper wall outlet. Plug all heat-producing appliances like space heaters, irons and toasters directly into the wall outlet; otherwise, the safety mechanism of circuit breakers and fuses is bypassed. Do not link extension cords together. Each connection is another possible failure point.

Everyone's staying indoors and communicating electronically to keep each other safe from the coronavirus. Everyone should take a moment to look at how those electronic devices are powered, however — and make sure we're keeping safe from fire.

What do you think? Send your letters to the editor to the sun@turley.com.

16 19 25 28 39 43 49 53 56 60 63

CLUES ACROSS

- structure
- 5. One's partner in
- marriage 11. Male admirer
- 12. Spend in a period of dormancy
- 16. Popular Easter meal 17. Doc
- 18. Bearing a heavy load 19. Gratitude
- 24. The Mount Rushmore
- State 25. Driving
- 26. Girl
- 27. British thermal unit
- 28. Makes a mistake
- 29. A defined length of time 30. Lions do it
- 31. Large quantities
- 33. Become less intense
- 34 Famed peninsula
- 38. Emerges 39. Rare Hawaiian geese
- 58. Cools your house 59. Imaginary line 60. New convert
- windows 64. Wore away 65. Work units

63. Some do it to their

40. Dance style

44. Measures speed of an

engine (abbr.)

45. Yankee hero Bucky

and northwest

50. Monetary unit of

51. Makes clothing

53 Spielberg's alien

56. Injury treatment

protocol

54. Agreeable to the taste

Samoa

49. Midway between west

CLUES DOWN

1. Remove body tissue Harvester

- confidence
- 5. Lapp 6. Bicycled
- 7. Entrance to a passage 8. Western U.S. state
- 9 Grain towers 10. "Westworld" actress Rachel Wood
- 13 Commercial 14. One who left a will 15. Makes it through
- 20. Within (prefix) 21. Sea patrol (abbr.)
- 22. Cigarettes (slang) 23. A doctrine
- 27. Constrictor snakes 29. Atomic #73 30 Baseball stat 31. Female sibling
- 33. Southern constellation 34. Belgian city
 - 32. A soft gray metal (abbr.) 35. Go in again

- 3. Roadside living quarters 36. In a different, more
 - 37. A place for sleeping 38. Blood type 40. Syrian news agency
 - (abbr.) 41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
 - 42. Millihenry
 - 44. Populous Israeli city Aviv 45. Widen
 - 46. Magical potion 47. Acknowledging 48. Private romantic rendezvous
 - 50. Cavalry sword 51. Terabyte 52. Artificial intelligence
 - 54. Bullfighting maneuver 55. Breezed through 57. Santa says it three
 - times _ and behold 62. 36 inches (abbr.)

SHARE, from page 1

shots of what life's like with the kids in the house and the home office working overtime. Take a minute to send in an update on how you're doing, what fun enrichment activities the kids have been up to, or anything else that's made the past two weeks a special time in your home. Include full names of the writer or photographer, and anyone visible in each photo. We'll print the best entries in next week's newspaper, and in subsequent weeks as the state of emergency continues. The best way to contact us is at thesun@turley.com.

We would also be glad to publish Holyoke children's artwork, essays or photos created during the school closure. Include the creator's full name, age, and school attended.

For all submissions, also include a telephone number and email address. We won't publish this information, but may use it to verify identities or ask follow-up

Stay safe out there — and let us know how you're doing!

Check us out on the web www.sun.turley.com

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 13

In The News

LEARNING, from page 1

even if there are no morning bells or work commutes forcing the family to set a schedule. It's important to keep routines because young kids rely on consistency to make sense of their world as they are developing, the teachers said. This can include consistent wakeup times, meal times, outdoor and free-play time, time spent on academic work, screen time, and a bedtime routine. The exact times are not important; families should adopt whatever schedule best fits their needs. Having a consistent schedule is the important part.

Giving youngsters a sense of order and predictability is an important function that preschools and kindergartens serve. Losing that familiar routine can be difficult for young children, who have not yet learned to master their emotions.

"We suggest encouraging your child to talk about how they feel and ask questions about what is going on with them," Bailly said.

In addition to talking it out, breathing exercises and relaxation techniques can be helpful in teaching children to control their emotions. Exercises like breathing for four counts, then holding for four counts, and so on, can help to relax kids. Parents can use fun activities such as smelling flowers, blowing out candles, and blowing bubbles to settle their children's nerves. Parents can also have kids close their eyes and think of a "happy place" then have them name something they can hear, smell, touch, and taste.

"Role play or pretend play can be used to help with social skills — like sharing or taking turns — or feelings of uncertainty," Bailly said. "There are videos that focus on social and emotional topics online for all ages. These can also be used as great discussion starters."

At Mater Dolorosa School, teachers Annette Aparviz, Jeanne Krow, Sarah Jagnarine and Nora Moreau also spoke about the importance of social and emotional development, along with having young children develop their communication skills. They advised parents to talk with their children about Covid-19 and why they have to stay home from school or daycare, away from their friends. Allowing kids to speak their minds and explain how they're feeling is very important.

Get physical

There are also physical skills that children would be learning in kindergarten or daycare. The Mater Dolorosa teachers recommended physical exercises to help strengthen hand control and movement. Fun activities for kids to hone their motor skills include crafts involving cutting paper — practicing both the discipline of straight lines and the fun of movement. Parents can also have kids play with dough, having them manipulate dough to help strengthen muscles; kids can also play a game where they pick up cotton balls with clothespins or tweezers and place them into

ice cube trays to help with muscle control. Some other fun activities to take part in at home include scavenger hunts around the house, where kids can earn free time after collecting five items. Parents can also create a game where they name a category and have kids name five things from that category.

Gross motor play, another important part of kindergarten, doesn't need to involve team sports, gymnasiums, or even the outdoors. Ways to stay active indoors include putting paper plates under their feet to skate around the house; using empty laundry baskets as targets to throw soft and various item into the basket; or following a line on the floor to practice balance skills.

Parents can try teaching their kids basic house chores, such as cleaning up toys and their dishes, or watering plants, finding ways to make ordinary household actions into a learning or game opportunity.

To turn exercise into a game, the teachers suggested drawing cards from a deck, where the number on the card would determine how many times the child has to do a certain movement — wall push-ups, dance moves, jumping, clapping, sorting pieces of laundry or toys, or going through an obstacle course. Having fun is important and can be easily incorporated into learning, such as chalk play, small chores, crafts, walks or hikes, bubbles, and more.

Hit the books

Children who are already in kindergarten will also have remote learning assignments to complete, the Kelly School teachers noted. But even younger children can benefit from practicing some of what they'll learn next year.

"Some important kindergarten academic skills to practice include printing their first name, letter and number identification and writing, counting and adding, reading books together, practice reading on their own, drawing and writing about a topic, identifying shapes, and practicing science skills such as talking about the weather and animals," Bailly said. "Practice writing and identifying the letters of their name, color and basic shape names, being read to and familiarized with books, counting, and matching games."

Parents can also play card and board games to develop counting and turn-taking skills. Reading and discussing the stories and parts of the stories can be helpful. So can letter games where kids can spell their own name, or daily vocabulary words.

Educational websites have several additional ideas for parents to prepare their children for the next grade level

One of the most important principles, the teachers said, is not to make schoolwork too much of a burden at too young an age. Children should be excited for their first day of kindergarten or first grade. Parents can help them by keeping fun and learning closely associated, even at home.

Read or subscribe to The Holyoke Sun online at: www.sun.turley.com





Teacher Erica Therrien wears her Kelly School sweater proudly while working on assignment at home as part of Holyoke schools' remote learning system.

Submitted photos



Declan Moreau, age 5, shares a work space with his mother, teacher Nora Moreau. Both are working at the dinner table while Mater Dolorosa School is closed.



Kindergarten teacher Kathryn Lorenzi works in her at home office, where she keeps in touch with her Kelly School pupils and with other teachers.



Kelly School kindergarten teacher Cara Bailly shows off her school pride while working in her home office.

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Spring sports officially canceled

Following the governor's closure of schools for the remainder of the year, spring sports will not happen

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

After weeks of speculation back and forth, the high school sports world got the sad news it had been dreading.

Last Friday, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association's Board of Directors was forced unanimously to cancel the spring sports season and associated tournaments.

It was a mere formality as Gov. Charlie Baker announced last Tuesday that schools in Massachusetts would remained closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic school year, which would have ended in mid to late June.

Baker held off for a few weeks on making the decision, hoping new coronavirus case numbers would decrease to the point where the state could begin opening up.

could begin opening up.

But as the "surge" in both new cases and deaths progressed, it became clear to Baker's administration that putting students in schools would not be a good situation. Additionally, the Massachusetts Teachers Association pushed for the closure of schools for the remainder of the year.

The closure of school means it is not possible for athletes to play sports, putting an end to the proposed shortened, 12-game season the MIAA was hoping to play beginning on May 4.

The school closure was set to expire on that day before Baker made his announcement.

The announcement gives a definitive answer the question about whether or not seniors will have their final moments in many of their respective spring sports. The decision cancels baseball, softball, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys tennis, girls tennis, boys track, girls track, boys volleyball.

There are no proposals for any school sponsored sports to play during the summer, and athletic directors will now have to turn their attention to hopefully playing sports this fall, provided school resumes in September.

In the MIAA announcement, they have made no mention or answered any questions about the status of fall sports. However, athletic directors in Western Massachusetts have begun developing fall schedules, expecting teams will be playing in early September.

The coronavirus first struck the end of winter sports on March 12, when the MIAA was forced to cancel the state finals in both hockey and basketball. Monson High School girls basketball played in the final state semifinal game, losing to Maynard in a Division 4 semifinal at Worcester State University with fans barred from the building. Maynard

See CANCELED, page 10





Players from all over the region have participated in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League for more than 40 years. The league said last week it is closely monitoring the coronavirus situation, but is still hopeful the league will begin play on time in mid-June.





Summer soccer league officials optimistic for season

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

In the advent of the high school sports spring season being cancelled and the lack of team sports being played all over the country, sights in Western Massachusetts have now begun looking at whether summer sports will be played. Summer sports have ballooned over the years as a way to keep all athletes active during the summer months. In the past, there was only summer baseball and soccer. But basketball, field hockey, lacrosse, and even flag football have been added over time.

The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League, how-

ever, nearly outlasts them all and is considered a crucial battleground for players that are vying for that competitive edge heading into the fall season.

The PVSSL has been in existence for more than 40 years, and there is some question as whether or not the

See SOCCER, page 10

Mass. Golf cancels open event in June

Mass Golf has made the decision to cancel the 111th Massachusetts Open, set to take place June 15-17 at Taconic Golf Club in Williamstown, due to the ongoing spread of COVID-19 throughout Massachusetts and the entire country.

All six Mass Open qualifying events have also been canceled, but any exemptions from this year will carry over and be honored for the 2021 Mass Open.

Participants who have registered have received an email detailing how refunds will be processed for the Mass Open and its qualifying events.

The Mass Open is the only Mass Golf event that allows amateur and professionals from

any state or country to enter and compete against one another. With a professional purse of \$75,000, the Mass Open offers one of the largest purses in the New England area.

The Four-Ball Championship was also canceled earlier this month, making the Mass Open the second of Mass Golf's Championships to be canceled this year. This also marks the first time since 1945 that there will be no Mass Open played, as the event was not held from 1943-45 due to World War II.

"We care deeply about this historic and signature championship and have made this decision with a heavy heart," said Jesse Menachem, Mass Golf's Executive Director/CEO. "This is an unfortunate situation we're dealing with in the COVID-19 era, but our absolute priority is to protect the health and safety of the Players, Officials, Volunteers, and Spectators as well as the Host Club Staff and Mass Golf Staff involved in the Mass Open and its qualifying events. Taconic has been extremely supportive throughout this decision-making process and we are so appreciative of our long-standing partnership as well as their understanding and flexibility in what is truly an unprecedented time."

The Qualifying schedule was as follows: Pine Brook CC (May 7); CC of Pittsfield (May 13); Kernwood CC (May 18);

See GOLF, page 10

United Women's Soccer still hopeful for 2020 season

United Women's Soccer (UWS) has reaffirmed its intent to play the 2020 season for both UWS and UWS League Two. The start of the season will be delayed in order to align with CDC guidance and we will work with all of our clubs to adjust the regular season schedule. The safety of our players, fans and staff remain our top priority and we will continue to monitor events and receive guidance from local, state, and national authorities.

"First and foremost, the safety of all the players, staff and supporters will guide any final decision on the 2020 season," said League Commissioner Joseph Ferrara Jr. "We have been working diligently on different scenarios based on potential timelines. UWS intends to provide a National Championship structure for our member teams as it is the most important service provided by the league. Our investment into this event has made it a tremendous showcase for women's soccer.

The New England Mutiny participate in the UWS and has recently featured several star players from Western Massachusetts.

The USL-Two, a men's semi-professional team, recently announced the Northeast Division cancelled its regular

In The News

Online scammers prey on pandemic paranoia

By Dalton Zbierski dzbierski@turley.com

As if the spread of Covid-19 weren't bad enough on its own, scammers around the world are taking advantage of the widespread paranoia that surrounds ongoing health crisis. Online fraud has not only increased during the pandemic, it's taken on new forms.

Nancy Cahalen, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Central New England, reported that online scams "popped up almost immediately" in March, as states across the country implemented unprecedented restrictions to fight the contagious infection.

Both international and domestic scammers are preying on the fears of the masses. Cahalen elaborated on the evolution of online fraud that she's personally witnessed over the past two months.

"They're becoming more sophisticated, and there's more scams now that are targeted at businesses, as well. Scammers read the headlines just like we do, and like to freshen up their old scams to make them more credible and have a better chance at succeeding," said Cahalen.

The BBB Scam Tracker monitors instances of online fraud throughout the country. Cahalen and her peers use the technology to identify local scams that attack residents and businesses in Central and Western Massachusetts, and northeastern Connecticut.

When concerns over the coronavirus first surfaced earlier this year, the BBB identified scams that sold victims items that were in short supply, including latex gloves, sanitizer or masks, without delivering the goods.

"The end game there was to get consumers to provide their personal information or payment to use somewhere else," said Cahalen.

Other scams attempt to sell con-



Nancy Cahalen, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Central New England, offers advice to stay up to date on the latest forms of online fraud.

Submitted photo / Better Business Bureau

sumers cures and vaccines for Covid-19. When approached, consumers should immediately dismiss this method of online fraud, noted Cahalen.

"There is no cure and no vaccine currently, so anything that someone is trying to sell you that says it is a cure is just not true," she said.

Trickier forms of online fraud have also become prevalent. Many scammers are playing off the economic impact and stimulus payments that millions of Americans have or are about to receive to reel in unsuspecting victims. By mailing fake checks or sending texts and emails requesting personal identification and payment, scammers can learn a victim's personal identification and bank account information.

"[Scammers] could be looking for this information such as, 'Where do we deposit our checks?' You're not going to get a text and email from the U.S. government to find out where to deposit the stimulus check. Hang up if they're calling, delete if it's a text or an email, and you'll stay safe from that particular scam," said Cahalen.

Various forms of online fraud

attempt to mimic the U.S. government or well-known businesses. These scams may offer fake employment opportunities or require down payments on the spot.

Using photo editing software, scammers are easily able to make emails and logos look "pretty authentic," said Cahalen. She reiterated that the government will never email or text you and urged victims to research a business' contact information separately from the emails that they receive.

"If you're not sure, give us a call," said Cahalen. "This environment has made it even better for those scanners, because there are so many people who are looking for work from home. What can they do to earn some money? There are a lot of phony opportunities out there."

Cahalen reminded residents that anyone can start a GoFundMe page to collect donations under false pretenses. The website give.org allows individuals to look up charities to "make sure they're on the up-and-up."

Relying on trusted sources is a major key in the fight against online fraud. Now more than ever, financial matters are often too important to risk making a mistake.

"The most important thing is if it doesn't sound right to you, you should really check it out," said Cahalen, before circling back to a significant point.

"People want to believe the best; that there is something they can take that will cure them or protect them from catching the virus. What we do know is that there are no known cures, and there are no vaccines that are currently available," she said.

The BBB and its Scam Tracker can be accessed online at bbb.org. The local office of the BBB is available by phone Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by dialing 508-755-3340.

Sports

CANCELED, from page 9

and other semifinal winners were deemed "co-state champions" by the MIAA.

The spring season was set to begin on March 16, and was first postponed to March 30 as many schools closed down on their own for two weeks. Gov. Baker then shut schools down for three weeks until April 7. In a subsequent decision on March 23, athletics were postponed through April 27. Baker countered with a school closure extension through May 4. The MIAA followed suit with a May 4 starting date for spring sports, agreeing to a shortened season and only holding sectional playoffs that would have concluded before the end of June.

Unlike colleges, which granted athletes an additional year of eligibility for spring sports, seniors in high school will not have that option.

GOLF, from page 9

Ocean Edge R&CC (May 20); Pleasant Valley CC (May 26); and The Bay Club at Mattapoisett (May 28).

Oak Hill CC in Fitchburg will be the host site of the Mass Open in 2021. The club will be celebrating its centennial next year as well.

"We greatly appreciate the continued support of all our Mass Golf Member Clubs who were scheduled to host qualifying, as well as Taconic GC for their willingness to host the Championship," said Kevin Eldridge, Mass Golf's Director of Rules & Competitions. "We look forward to continuing this signature event in 2021."

Taconic was getting set to host the Mass Open for the second time, first hosting it in 1992 when Boston native Andy Morse took home the title. Taconic has also hosted three USGA Championships and four NCAA Championships in its storied history. Jack Nicklaus was 16 when he made the semifinals of the 1956 U.S. Junior Amateur, hosted by Taconic.

Taconic also hosted the Mass Amateur back in 2016, won by Brendan Hunter, of Red Tail GC.

Josh Hillman, the head golf pro at Taconic, said he's disappointed that COVID-19 has led to this cancelation of the Mass Open and other events, and he just wants to see Taconic get another shot at some point.

"Taconic will always be here for Mass Golf, and we hope to get another Championship on the schedule soon," said Hillman, who was named the 2019 Northeastern New York PGA Golf Professional of the Year.

New Hampshire's Michael Martel won the Mass Open last year by edging out Ryan Gendron (Tampa, Florida) by 1 stroke. In the process, he ended Jason Thresher's three-year winning streak in the Mass Open.

SOCCER, from page 9

season will begin on time following the cancellations that have already occurred.

Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, which hosts the PVSSL finals in early August, is the home of the semi-pro Western Mass. Pioneers. However, their season has been cancelled.

The American Legion baseball program will not have a national tournament or a World Series. However, Legion officials do hope players will have a regular season, especially with the spring baseball season cancelled.

Chris Kolodziey, who along with his wife Dianna, took over the PVSSL in place of his late father, league founder and legendary soccer contributor William Kolodziey, says they are monitoring the situation closely.

Unlike some other leagues, Dianna Kolodziey said last week there is some flexibility in holding the PVSSL season.

"We are not opposed to revising the start and end dates for the leagues, we are will continue to explore our options to get our players back on the field," said Dianna Kolodziey.

The league typically begins play in mid-June and concludes during the final week of July with a playoff week following that.

PVSSL plays a 10 or 11-game regular season. The league is divided into four divisions, Division A boys, Division B boys, Division A girls, and

Division B girls. Larger schools highly competitive or advanced smaller schools usually participate in Division A. Division B usually includes smaller schools or situations where a larger school has two teams.

Last week, Dianna Kolodziey placed a statement on the PVSSL website expressing the optimism of having a normal summer season.

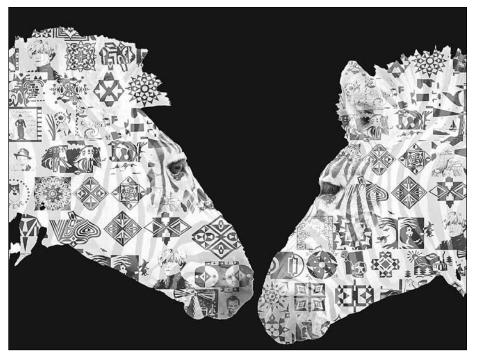
"At this time we are keeping our hopes up and being optimistic that we will be able to move forward with the PVSSL this summer," she stated. "Our plan is to have the a league for the summer. Chris and I along with our executive board is continuing to monitor the situation with the Corona virus (COVID-19) throughout our nation and around the world. While this is an evolving situation, we are taking the current situation seriously and are following developments very closely.

"We will continue to monitor the situation in real time and will provide a further updates in the near future. We apologize any inconvenience this may have caused however, the safety of our PVSSL family is our highest priority."

Dianna Kolodziey did not specifically say what steps would be taken if the season were to start, including modified rules for social distancing, and eliminating handshake lines after games like a number of sports plan to.

The Kolodzieys state they hope to hold registrations in early May. For more information, Kolodziey can be contacted at ckolodziey@msn.com.







Pictured is some of the artwork on display in the virtual galleries of the 2020 HCC Student Art Exhibition, available online.

Submitted images

College student art is showcased online

At this time during the spring semester, the Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College is traditionally gearing up for its final show of the academic year, the annual Student Art Exhibition.

This spring, however, with the campus restricted because of Covid-19 and the shift to remote learning, the gallery is closed. However, the 2020 HCC Student Art Exhibition will go on.

To be more specific, the show is going online.

The 2020 Virtual HCC Student Art

Exhibition was slated to launch at noon Thursday, April 30, at 2020hccstudentartexhibition.blogspot.com.

"Creativity is at the heart of making this particular school year work for everyone," said gallery director Amy Johnquest. "We all had to radically reroute our courses to keep everyone safe during this deadly pandemic. Teachers sourced unique ideas and strategies to continue bringing vital education to their students. In a world where studio facilities, tactile surfaces, hands-on demonstrations and materials are key to teaching art, the HCC Visual Art Department HCC Library lobby. instructors have done a remarkable job making this work. The positive results in this show are proof that our students have been able to continue being creative and making truly great art during this incredibly challenging time.'

Usually, each teacher from HCC's Visual Art Department is given a section of the gallery in which to showcase their students' work. Student art is also displayed in the campus hallways, and the exhibition concludes with a reception and celebration in the gallery and in the

The art on display in the online galleries are photographs or digital images of original work.

With this website," said Johnquest, "I have attempted to do something similar, by breaking up the groupings by instructor. The work looks so great. It makes me really nostalgic for the live and in-person show and party we have been having for so many years. Though the campus is closed, I'm grateful to be able to continue this tradition by showcasing the work online."

Campus police celebrate dispatchers on their week

The Holyoke Community College campus police department celebrated National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 12-18, an annual appreciation that honors the dispatchers who answer phones and

radios and coordinate the delivery of emergency service personnel and equipment that can often mean the difference between life and death.

"Public safety telecommunicators 9-1-1 operators and dispatchers — are

Dispatch supervisor Jeremie Meyer at his post last month inside the Holyoke Community College Campus Police station.

really the unseen 'first first responders,'" said HCC Police Chief Laura Lefebvre. "They are the first point of contact during emergencies and often go unrecognized."

Telecommunicators week is sponsored by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International, and celebrated annually during the second full week of April.

Even in the best of times, dispatchers don't get enough recognition because most of their work is behind the scenes," Lefebvre said. "To most people, they are just voices on the phone or radio, but they are essential, and I want the community to know that."

In keeping with military and first-responder tradition, each of HCC's three full-time and six part-time dispatchers received commemorative coins to mark the occasion. One side of the coin features an American flag and the words "Emergency Communications." The other side says "9-1-1 Strong: Honor. Pride. Service. Integrity.'

The department also hung a banner in the station that says, "First 1st Responders, Thank You."

Lefebvre said she has delivered "some healthy and some not-sohealthy" treats to the HCC dispatchers, a lot of virtual "thank yous," letters of recognition and appreciation to community dispatch centers that support the college, including Holyoke Police Dispatch, Holyoke Fire/AMR, and the Massachusetts State Police Northampton Control, as well as bags of food.

"I want to not only thank the telecommunications professionals who serve the HCC community, but also extend my appreciation during this time of national emergency to all of our law enforcement partners in the area who answer their phones and radios in times of need," she said. "Thank you for your dedicated ser-

Deadline in May for free Internet offer

Holyoke's School Department, in partnership with the Mayor's Office, recently negotiated a contract with Comcast to provide six months of Internet access to families of Holyoke public school students who do not currently have at-home connectivity.

Signups are being taken now. Families who are interested should call the schools at 413-561-0862 (English) or 413-314-3560 (Spanish) to get a promotional code on or before May 14. A district representative will provide a code for signup, or will call back if a message is left.

Families of Holyoke public school students are eligible so long as they have not had Comcast service in the past 90 days. A previous restriction that barred families from accessing this benefit if they had outstanding debt with Comcast, the main sticking point in negotiations that lasted weeks, and was recently waived nationwide.

The service from Comcast, administered through its "Internet Essentials" program, will include 6 months of free access covered by the city, after which families can continue service month-tomonth for \$9.95, or cancel the service to avoid billing. Families will also have access to reduced-cost computers at a rate of \$149.99, plus tax, and free digital literacy training. Holyoke schools will continue to offer remote instruction via the Internet until at least the end of the current school

For more information or to sign up, visit bit.ly/thesun432.

Be wary of river germs after rainfall

As weather warms and people head outside for fresh air and exercise while remaining physically distant, the Connecticut River Conservancy urges people to use caution when swimming, boating, or fishing in rivers.

In addition to rivers being swollen from spring rain and snowmelt, there's an added concern about E. coli bacteria and coronavirus exposure from untreated sewage in rivers. Luckily, there's one easy thing to keep in mind that is an indicator of river cleanliness the weather. Specifically, if it has rained recently.

Typical wastewater treatments involving chlorine or ultraviolet light are effective in killing E. coli bacteria and are expected to be highly effective in killing Covid-19. Therefore, Greenfield-based CRC is primarily concerned about untreated sewage discharges into local rivers, which has always been a concern, even before the current state of emergency. Rain flushes all sorts of pollutants into Massachusetts rivers and can overwhelm towns' aging stormwater infrastructure, causing sewage and polluted stormwater runoff to flow directly into the river.

'Many years of Connecticut River E. coli bacteria testing data tell us that it's a good idea to stay out of rivers for 24 to 48 hours after a heavy rain, because bacteria levels could be high,"

See RIVER, page 15

Feeling bored.

Answers: A. lawn B. garden C. plants D. desigr



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Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to landscaping. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 16 = n)

22 3 17 16 Α.

Clue: Contains grass

3 12 7 24 16

Clue: Organized plants

26 22 3 16 9

Clue: Living organisms with roots

7 24 19 8 D. 23

Clue: Plan or drawing

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to landscaping.

SAGSR



Answer: Grass

Guess Who?

I am a comic actress born in Texas on April 26, 1933. I once lived in a boarding house for women pursuing careers in acting. I have earned a Tony, Emmy and Golden Globe for my work in various genres.

Answer: Carol Burnett

WORDS

ACIDIC

AERATE

ALKALINE

AMENDMENTS

BEAUTIFY

BLADE

CARBON

COMPOST

DEADHEAD

FERTILIZE

GREEN

LANDSCAPE

LEAVES

MATTER

MOW

MULCH

ORGANIC

PEAT

PLANTINGS

PRUNE

SHRUB

S0IL

TILL

WATER

horoscopes

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, others want to lure you into their shenanigans, but you don't need to worry about falling prey. You stick to your own ways of doing things.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you may need to take a different and unusual approach to get things accomplished this week. Do not be afraid to take the bull by the horns if it is necessary.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Thinking outside of the box is something that you do with frequency, Gemini. Although others may not be sure of your unconventional methods, you always get things done.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, anxiety about starting a new path or chapter in your life is completely normal. Look forward to all of the positive things that may be in store soon enough.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Lend a helping hand to someone who may need a vote of confidence or some words of support this week, Leo. Your efforts will be appreciated very much.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Make the most of luck that comes to you this week, Virgo. Do not speculate why such good fortune comes your way, but embrace it with an open heart.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Do not rush to judgment on any situation or person for the time being. All of the facts have not come to light or sharpened. But the truth will soon reveal itself, Libra.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, someone close to you needs space this week, so give them some room to breathe. Find a way to keep busy as this person works through what he or she needs.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, a competitive coworker is pushing hard to be on top. Use this as motivation as you to strive to become the best version of yourself you can be.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you feel confident moving forward with a relationship after a heartto-heart talk. Now this week you can cultivate this relationship even further.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Share your thoughts and feelings with someone who is unbiased if you want an accurate assessment of what you need to do to improve, Aquarius. A willing listener is quite helpful to you.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, you will need patience in spades this week. Others may not be able to maintain your pace, so give them the benefit of the doubt.

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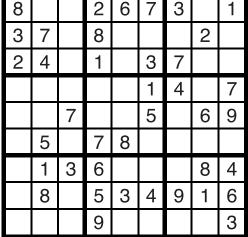
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

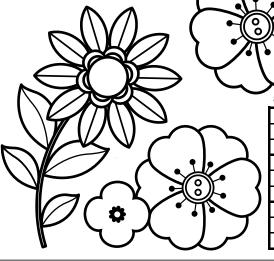
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TALENT, from page 1

D

up to 90 seconds showcasing a talent. This can include singing, dancing, cooking, playing an instrument, drawing or reciting an original poem.

The purpose of the contest is to engage residents with each other as well as creating an interactive platform to share

different activities, tips and skills to have fun at home during the coronavirus state of emergency. As with the first Holyoke at Home video contest last month, three winners will be awarded, chosen by Mayor Alex Morse, City Councilor Jim Leahy, and a "People's Choice" determined by online voting. All three winners will receive a \$100 gift card to the Holyoke business of their choice.

Submissions are being taken until 4 p.m. Friday, May 15. Videos can be uploaded to www.holyokeathome.com, or posted to Facebook, Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #HolyokeAtHome. Privacy settings need to be set at public in order for videos to be judged. If posting to Facebook, videos should be directly posted to the Holyoke City Hall page (facebook.com/CityofHolyoke), with the hashtag included in the description or title of the video.

Voting for the People's Choice will begin at 5 p.m. on May 15 and conclude at noon Monday, May 18, at www.holyokeathome.com. The three winners will be announced on Facebook later that day.

For more information, visit www.holyokeathome.com, or email MayorsOffice@holyoke.org.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Grant extends college-prep program at HCC

Holyoke Community College has been awarded a \$450,000 state grant to extend its free college preparation program, Transition to College and Careers, for three more years.

The grant from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education allocates \$150,000 a year for the next three fiscal years, through fiscal 2023, with the college providing an additional 30 percent match.

Transition to College and Careers, also known as TCC, is a free, adult education program that helps students 18 or older prepare for college and identify a career path. Coursework includes intensive academic preparation in reading and writing, math, study strategies, and com-

The program is designed for all adults, including students with high school equivalency certificates, those who have completed English as a Second or Other Language or other adult literacy programs, and those who have been out of school for a long time and want to

'TCC is really a bridge for them so they feel like they understand what college is about and gain confidence in their abilities to manage the academic workload," said TCC director Marie Troppe.

There is no cost to students for the classes or course materials.

"The grant and the college cover everything," Troppe said.

HCC runs daytime and evening



Students in a previous year of HCC's Transition to College and Careers program celebrate their graduation.

TCC groups during fall, spring and summer terms. All classes meet on the main HCC campus at 303 Homestead Ave., Holvoke.

The program serves 60 to 75 stu-

The grant funds TCC instruction for about 30 of those students a year 15 each fall and spring — with priority given to students who come from other DESE-funded adult education programs, such as the Literacy Project, the Care Center, the Center for New Americans, the Community Education Center, the Valley Opportunity Council or one of HCC's many other community partners.

As an additional incentive, the DESE grant also pays for 12 college credits for students who go on to enroll at HCC or another college.

"That's a tremendous savings and an incredible incentive," said Troppe. "Twelve credits is essentially four free college classes for students who complete the TCC program."

The next series of TCC classes at HCC will begin in September.

For more information or to apply for the program, please visit hcc.edu/tcc or email tcc@hcc.edu.

Public Notices

City of Holyoke 536 Dwight Street #15 Holyoke, MA 01040-5078 (413)-322-5650 Invitation to Bid # 2020-010 South Holyoke Housing **Development Public Works**

Sealed bids for project works including: roadway & sidewalk construction, utilities, curbing, tree belts, pavement milling and more will be received in the Purchasing Office, Room 15, Holyoke City Hall, Holyoke, MA up to 2:00 PM on 5/21/20 in which time they will be publically opened

Bid forms will be available electronically after 10:00 AM at belangerl@holyoke.org and or sheridanb@holyoke.org.

The City of Holyoke reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids. 5/01/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Hampden Probate and** Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD20P0202EA

Estate of: Louis M Gageant Date of Death: 11/16/2019 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for S/A Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Amy Harper of Holyoke MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Amy Harper of Holyoke MA be appointed as Personal

Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/26/2020

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to

UNSUPERVISED **ADMINISTRATION UNDER** THE MASSACHUSETTS **UNIFORM PROBATE CODE** (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an

inventory or annual accounts with the Court Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribu-tion of assets and expenses of

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court Date: April 23, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin

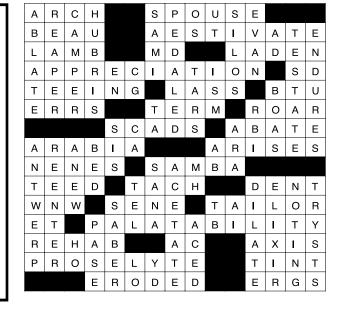
Register of Probate 5/01/2020

HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC NOTICES

All public notices to be published in the Holyoke Sun should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Jamie Joslyn processes all public notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie directly at 413-283-8393.

Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 14 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Please check the accuracy of your public notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.



OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. Death Notices & Paid **Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Email all notices to notices@turley.com

Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.



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MISCELLANEOUS

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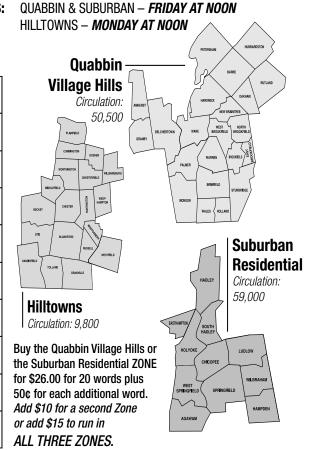
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21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00	23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00	27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
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RIVER, from page 11

said Andrew Fisk, CRC's executive director. The presence of bacteria is an indication that other germs that could make someone sick — like coronavirus - may also be present.

"While COVID-19 is a new threat, our recommendation to avoid rivers after heavy rain remains the same," says Fisk.

Research is still underway to determine if Covid-19 remains infectious in freshwater or after passing through wastewater treatment facilities. Information available from the federal Centers for Disease Control, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Water Research Foundation indicates that the likelihood of catching Covid-19 from treated or untreated sewage is thought to be low. However, the CDC has noted that the SARS virus, also a type of coronavirus, was detected in untreated sewage for 14 days.

River users are encouraged to visit the "Is It Clean?" website at www. ctriver.org/isitclean to find bacteria test results, an indicator of overall river cleanliness, for nearly 200 river access and recreation sites in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. The site is also available in Spanish at www.ctriver.org/estalimpio. Water samples are collected from late May through early October. Current plans are for testing to resume as usual this year.

Each summer, CRC and more than 20 partner organizations deploy volunteers to collect water samples from popular boat launches and swimming holes. Samples are typically collected at each site weekly or biweekly, tested for E. coli, and test results are posted online 24 hours later. Water sample results are color-coded and added to a map, so users can easily see where the river is clean. Results are a snapshot of river conditions at the moment the sample was taken, but give river users information they can use to make informed decisions.

The website provides bacteria data for the Connecticut River and more than 20 tributaries, including the Chicopee River and Westfield River. Bacteria test results for 2019 showed nearly all sites sampled by CRC had dry-weather average bacteria levels below the limits considered safe for swimming and boating.

'Thanks to decades of investments and public opinion committed to investing in clean water, our rivers are certainly much cleaner than they used to be,' said Fisk. "But it's smart for river users to think about recent weather and check online resources like the 'Is It Clean? / ¿Está limpio?' website so they know when our rivers are clean enough for swimming or boating.'

Many cities and towns along our rivers are making significant investments to separate the outdated combined sewer overflows into separate sewer and stormwater systems that can better handle all the water. Pollution from parking lots, farms, dog parks and more also contribute to the problem. Federal stormwater regulations require densely developed towns and cities to take measures to reduce pollution from street and parking lot runoff. These investments have made a tremendous difference in improving the health of our rivers and protecting

To learn more about CRC, or to join the effort and help protect local rivers, visit www.ctriver.org.

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DRIVING THE MESSAGE HOME



A sign on the other side of this car read "School May Be Closed, but My Heart is Always Open."



Teachers and staff decorated their cars with all kinds of messages, including some reminders about hygiene and manners.

NOTICE ERRORS: Each advertis-



Around 60 members of the Holyoke High School community participated in last week's car parade.



er is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement. 413-569-2400 | 25 Sam West Road, Southwick, MA | 860-654-1975



Decorations on cars included signs, balloons and even stuffed animals to greet high school students and lift their



We thought we would give you a quick update. First, we are happy to re-introduce weekly sales. We are cautiously optimistic that the market will slowly



After learning that schools will not reopen before the summer, Holyoke High School teachers and staff organized a car parade to drive around the city on April 22 and let students know how much they are missed.

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ARREST LOG

The Holyoke Police Department's arrest logs for April 6-26 were not available at press time.



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1 @ The Holyoke Sun